

A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreille
and Kootenai Tribes

(S) Finance and Claims Committee
Honorable Llew Jones, Chairman
Honorable Bob Keenan, Vice Chair
64th Montana Legislature
Capital Building - Helena, Mt.

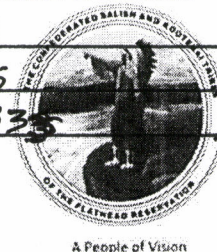
THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION
P.O. BOX 278
Pablo, Montana 59855
(406) 275-2700
FAX (406) 275-2806
www.cskt.org

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

TRIBES 3

Date 3-6-15

Bill No. HB 33



TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vernon S. Finley - Chairman
Carole Lankford - Vice Chair
James V. Matt - Secretary
Len Twoteeth - Treasurer
Ronald Trahan
Shelly R. Fyant
Lenonard W. Gray
Lloyd D. Irvine
Terry L. Pitts
Jens

March 6, 2015

RE: HB 33 – Appropriate money for new or expanded mental health crisis intervention

Chairman Jones and Committee Members:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes ("CSKT") supports the Children, Families, Health and Human Services interim Committees' request for HB 33. This bill will provide alternatives to incarceration and may reduce admissions to the state hospital for emergency and court ordered detention. Due to the alternatives created by HB 33, the State of Montana will likely see future cost savings as well.

HB 33 generates community-based solutions as it allows local communities and entities to collaborate and apply for grant funds. The Tribes support the development of local community solutions to meet the needs of each community's unique populations.

CSKT stands in support of HB 33 as it provides the opportunity for additional tools and resources at the local levels for those professionals who struggle to meet the needs of individuals needing important mental health crisis services.

The CSKT understands and appreciates the need for mental health legislation such as HB 33. We thank the sponsor, Ron Ehli, for introducing and carrying such important legislation and request that this committee support this bill and pass it to the floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vernon S. Finley, Chairman
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes